(b) if so, the facts therein;

(c) whether Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh are sharing maximum contribution to the Central Foodgrain stock for the last several years;

(d) if so, whether the production of wheat in those States has declined during the current year as against the last year;

(e) if so, the extent to which it has declined alongwith the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the production of wheat in general is likely to decline during the current year in other parts of the country;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The production of wheat in Punjab during 1995-96 is reported to be somewhat lower being 127.24 lakh tonnes as against last year's production of 135.42 lakh tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The production of wheat during 1995-96 has declined in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh but there is no decline in Haryana. The extent of decline in production during 1995-96 over 1994-95 il likely to be about 8.2 lakh tonnes and 3.6 lakh tonnes in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh respectively. The main reasons for fall in production of wheat during 1995-96 are reported to be decrease in consumption of DAP and other phosphatic fertilizers, unfavourable weather conditions particularly in February and March, which led to shrivelling of grains and attack of yellow rust.

(f) and (g). The production of wheat in general has declined during 1995-96 in most of the wheat growing States for the similar reasons as reported for Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

(h) In order to increase the production of wheat in the country, an Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Wheat based cropping system approach is being implemented in the major wheat growing States. The Government has also raised concessions for domestic DAP from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000 per tonne. It has also extended concessions on imported DAP at the level of Rs. 1500 per tonne. The concession on Muriate of Pottash has also been raised from Rs.1000 to Rs. 1500 per tonne. These concessions on phosphatic and pottasic fertilisers are expected to result in a more balanced use of fertilisers and thus help in improving the productivity.

[English]

LPG Connections

*19. SHRI RATILAL VARMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG connections provided during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of LPG applicants on waiting list as on May, 31, 1996; and

(c) the time by which the remaining applicants are likely to be provided LPG connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) A *Statement* is enclosed.

(b) The number of applicants on LPG waiting lists registered with the LPG distributors of the PSU Oil Companies in the country as on 1.4.1996 was around 132.82 lakhs.

(c) New LPG connections are released to waitlisted applicants according to serial order of registration, depending on new customer enrolment allotted to a distributor, based on slack available with each distributer, waiting list and total enrolment plan based on product availability in the country. Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible For this purpose, higher LPG availability is being planned by increasing the capacity of existing production sources and commissioning of new LPG import facilities. LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore are expected to be commissioned during 1996-97 and more such facilities are being planned. It is expected that by the year 2001, outstanding waitlists will be cleared and there will be only current waiting lists.

STATEMENT

Release of LPG Connections

(Figures in Thousands)

States	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	100.8	176.1	131 3
Arunachal Pradesh	5.4	7.1	5 2
Assam	27.2	45.3	32.2
Bihar	48.5	105.0	46 1
Goa	6.7	8 4	8 0
Gujarat	57 7	109 8	77 1
Haryana	44.4	65.1	47 2
Himachal Pradesh	52.2	48.2	116 3